

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF NANCY DAVIS REAGAN'S BIRTH

HON. YOUNG KIM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 6, 2021

Mrs. KIM of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today joined by my colleague, Rep. STEEL, to commemorate the birthday of one of our Nation's greatest First Ladies and a true American patriot. 100 years ago, on July 6, Nancy Reagan was born. Throughout her lifetime, she served in many roles—from movie star to loving mother, from First Lady of both California and the United States to distinguished philanthropist. No matter her position, she fulfilled her duties with grace; elegance; and, above all, class.

As First Lady of California, Nancy became involved with important charitable work, including visiting Vietnam War veterans, homes for the elderly, and schools for physically and emotionally handicapped children. She participated in events raising awareness about prisoners of war and servicemembers missing in

action. She also promoted the Foster Grandparent Program, a volunteer opportunity for older Americans to mentor, guide, and care for children with exceptional needs. This program continues to make important contributions to this day, benefitting both children and elderly people. According to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute, showcasing the power of Mrs. Reagan's attention, in the program's first year of operation, 782 foster grandparents carried out projects in 27 States. By 1985, some 19,000 foster grandparents served 65,000 children in all 50 states.

As First Lady during President Reagan's two terms, she led the charge on educating our Nation's youth on the dangers of drug use and addiction, teaching a generation of children and young adults to "Just Say No." In 1985, she hosted First Ladies from across the world for a briefing in Washington and Atlanta on the topic of drug abuse and what can be done to help those who are suffering from it. Her drive to educate young people about the dangers of illicit drugs demonstrates her commitment to the future of our nation.

After her time in the White House, Nancy had a profound impact in our own communities through her support of the Reagan Li-

brary in Simi Valley. It was through her guidance and influence that the Reagan Library became one of the most esteemed centers for learning and Presidential scholarship in the country. She also continued the push to educate people on the perils of substance abuse and established the Nancy Reagan Foundation and the Nancy Reagan Afterschool Program to support this mission.

After President Reagan passed away, she became a leading advocate for individuals suffering from Alzheimer's Disease and their caregivers. Nancy worked with the National Alzheimer's Association and its affiliate, the Ronald & Nancy Reagan Research Institute in Chicago, Illinois, to find a cure or treatment for this terrible disease that plagues so many in our country. She courageously continued President Reagan's legacy in serving our country until her death in 2016. She is buried on the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library grounds next to her beloved husband.

On the centennial of her birth, we commend Mrs. Reagan for her service to our communities, the State of California, and the United States of America.